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photo and caption attached

Local Governments Practice What they Preach

Wes Graham, Public Works Superintendent for the City of Dixon, wants the city's lawns to look great. He also wants to save the city money. So for the last five years he's been using mulching mowers to mow the city lawns. In other words, local governments like Dixon are "grasscycling" - recycling grass clippings by leaving them on the lawn.

Graham says, "I'm proud of the turf we have in town. We get a lot of compliments. So we want it to look as nice as it can." He says when he tried using mulching mowers and leaving clippings on the lawn in the past the clippings would sit on top of the lawn looking ugly, but with the new technology in mulching mowers the cuts are so small they just disappear into the grass.

According to Graham, leaving grass clippings on the lawns, or "grasscycling," also saves his crews time, since they don't have to haul the clipping somewhere else. Saving time saves the city money. "We don't have unlimited funds, and this is a way to use equipment to save us time, which is a real advantage," says Graham.

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A year ago Graham's wife gave him a mulching mower as a gift. He was skeptical about using a non-commercial mower on the turf of his five-acre parcel and intended to use it only on the outlying areas. However, he decided to give it a try on the lawn and was pleasantly surprised. He uses it exclusively now saying, "I like it because it saves me time, and I don't have to sacrifice the appearance of the lawn."

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<<PHOTO CAPTION>>

Local Governments Grasscycle

Wes Graham, Public Works Superintendent for the City of Dixon, examines the performance of one of the City's mulching mower.